

**PALMER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2017**

**ATTENDEES:** Ann Marie Panella (BoS Liaison), Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Deanne Werkheiser (Chair), Tom Dittmar (Vice-Chair), Diane Halasz (Secretary), Nancy Nicholas, Rob Reese, Ken Starace

**ABSENT:** N/A

**Public Meeting** opened at 7:01 p.m. at Palmer Public Library

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.** There were no guests.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion to approve: Tom Dittmar. Second: Nancy Nicholas. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
  - a. Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2017 PESC Meeting.
  - b. Recycling Report, April 26, 2017. See Appendix 1.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Recycling Center. The committee reviewed a preliminary draft for modifications to the recycling center. The committee was in agreement that the new changes would bring about more efficiency, a safer traffic flow, and allow for additional storage of equipment under Act 101. The committee indicated it would be their hope that the site could provide for expansion to accommodate future needs. The township is investigating costs and grant options.
  - b. 2017 Year of Planned Action. The Directions 2017 document was reviewed:
    1. Anti-litter campaigns.
      1. Instead of sending correspondence to township churches and businesses to remind them to keep their properties litter-free, a blurb will be placed in the next newsletter reporting the results of the Earth Day Litter event and urging residents, churches, and businesses to keep up the good work that was started.
      2. Will add tasks to explore Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Trail, and/or Adopt-a-Road programs, depending on response to Earth Day post-event survey.
      3. Free passes to the Berks Street Yard Waste Facility will not be handed out, however Cindy will inquire regarding the possibility of providing one-time use passes to churches and businesses who request and then receive presentations on recycling, composting, etc.
    2. Community Education Day. No one volunteered to plan and manage this event. This will not be held this year but planning for next spring should take place this year. It was suggested that it be held on Earth Day but that may conflict with the second annual Litter Clean-up Event which was held on Earth Day this year.
    3. Green Guide. Brenda DeGerolamo is responsible for website design.
    4. Comprehensive Plan. Reviewing the updated comprehensive plan should be added to year of planned action. No schedule is known as yet.
    5. Remaining items in the 2017 Directions document will not be in the initial Year of Planned Action for 2017 but as the above items are completed, these can be added. These include ESC vs EAC, Bike/Hike Path improvements, correspond and work closer with other organizations, and have scouts become involved in merit badge programs in Palmer's Parks and Trails.

6. Absorb Shade Tree Commission functions into the ESC. Absorbing the Shade Tree Commission functions into the ESC is not possible as this commission is governed by PA Second Class Township Code which expressly prohibits this.”
- c. ByLaws Review.
  1. Changes to the document from prior versions include the elimination of sub-committees. Cindy Oatis noted that these modifications to the proposed by-laws were made to better align the ESC with other township committees.
  2. Deanne Werkheiser made a motion to accept the bylaws as updated by Chris Christman. Tom Dittmar seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 in favor (Tom Dittmar, Nancy Nicholas, Rob Reese, Ken Starace) and 1 against (Diane Halasz).
  3. Term expiration dates for PESC members. All terms expire on December 31 of the year. The following expiration dates were determined.
    1. Deanne Werkheiser. 12/31/2021.
    2. Tom Dittmar. 12/31/2022.
    3. Diane Halasz. 12/31/2020.
    4. Nancy Nicholas. 12/31/2019.
    5. Rob Reese. 12/31/2018.
    6. Ken Starace. 12/31/2021.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Volunteers for E-cycling and HHW events.
  1. E-cycling on Saturday 5/6 at Nazareth Intermediate School. 9am to Noon. Set-up 7am. The following PESC members will be present: Tom Dittmar, Deanne Werkheiser, Nancy Nicholas (early in the event), Diane Halasz.
  2. HHW Event. Tom Dittmar will follow-up with Northampton County to determine if help is needed.
- b. 2018 Initiatives, projects, etc. Some ideas from the Education Sub-committee are listed in the February PESC minutes. Rob Reese suggested a bike safety program.

#### 5. REPORTS

- a. Earth Day Clean-up Event, Ken Starace. See Appendix 2. In addition:
  1. Post-event survey form was sent out.
  2. Deanne Werkheiser donated the pretzels.
  3. Cindy and Tom Dittmar will collect event equipment such as banners, gloves, bags, buckets, tables, etc, from Tom Ganssle and Ken Starace and deliver to the Public Works garage for storage.
  4. The areas under the bleachers at the Riverside Park ballfields have been re-littered after the litter was picked up on Saturday. Options for litter enforcement for the future are requiring a deposit from teams at the beginning of the year which would be forfeited if the teams left litter after the games, a 7th inning stretch to pick up the trash, denial of the privilege of using the field if litter is left.
  5. Future program to recognize community members who pick up litter could be started via newsletter articles asking people to nominate a Litter Hero.
- b. Education, Diane Halasz. See Appendix 3. In addition:
  1. Green Guide review. No one on the committee reviewed the proposed articles for accuracy of scientific content. No updates were requested by PESC members.
  2. Alternate names suggested for the Green Guide are the Palmer Green Guide and Green ‘Zine.

3. Cindy Oatis is considering articles highlighting various local individuals and businesses that are strong recyclers and national initiatives such as repurposing and zero-waste.
4. As the Education Sub-committee does not exist anymore, the Education Report should not appear on future agendas. Diane will continue creating the Green Guide Report for the meetings.

**6. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- a. Diane Halasz reported that she will most likely not be at the May meeting so someone else should take the minutes.
- b. Cindy Oatis reports that House Bill 646 eliminates the sunset date of Act 101.
- c. Cindy Oatis reports that recycling attendants are needed at the Hartley Avenue and Berks Street facilities.
- d. Rob Reese brought literature from Pinellas County Florida's Eco Fun Day as an example of an education day program that we might like to review before we do ours. He also brought some bicycle valve stem caps that light up, which could be used as a give-away.

**7. NEXT MEETING:** May 24, 2017

- 8. ADJOURNMENT.** Motion to adjourn: Tom Dittmar; second: Ken Starace. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by:** Diane Halasz

**APPENDIX 1.**

**Cindy Oatis, Recycling Coordinator  
Recycling Report  
April 26, 2017**

1. 2015 PA DEP 904 Performance Recycling Grant – received \$103,970.00
2. Easton Area School District (EASD) - Ongoing meetings continue with EASD superintendent, principals, PTA and Tim Case. Evaluating improved signage, container requirements, contests, and education, etc. for Fall 2018 implementation.

**APPENDIX 2.**

**Palmer 2017 Earth Day Results:**

Ken Starace

April 22, 2017

**Participants:**

PESC members: 7

Volunteers: 30 documented (does not include UCC Youth Group members, Girl Scouts and Palmer Moravian Church members). Rough estimate- 40 volunteers

<b><u>Locations:</u></b>	<b><u>Litter:</u></b>	<b><u>Recycle: (by bag)</u></b>
Penn Pump Park	2	2
Fairview Park/Bike Trail	2	1
Riverside Park	2	1
Mill Run Park	-	-
Fox Run Park	1	1
La Barre/Old Orchard	1	-
Taylor Wharton Bike Trail	1	-
Tatamy Bike Trail	1	1
Aldi/Giant Bike Trail	7	6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>

Note: Litter is noted as per/bag regardless of volume or weight which is consistent in the way numbers were calculated in the past. Guide Leaders were consistent that Parks and Trails were not in bad shape. The swale behind Aldi's was apparently the worst based on bag count. All Trash was picked up and disposed of at the Hartley Ave Center by early afternoon. No injuries to report.

**Sponsors:**

Redners - 4 cases of water

Lowe's - Buckets

Weis - \$25.00 gift certificate

Giant - \$50.00 gift card

Philadelphia Pretzel - Pretzels, Mustard, Cheese

Sheetz - 5 boxes of coffee, cups, condiments

**APPENDIX 3.**  
**Education Report**  
**Diane Halasz**  
**April 26, 2017**

1. There were no meetings on Education during March and April.
2. Education Day.
  1. The Saturday morning dates in the fall when PESC members would be available are 10/14 and 10/21. It is unknown whether there is a room available in the Chrin Community Center.
  2. No committee member has responded to my request for a volunteer to plan and organize the event.
3. Green Guide.
  1. Photos are needed for the following articles: Clean Air, Cats, and Earth Stewards.
  2. Drafts of the remaining articles for the initial launch of the Green Guide have been created and are submitted for review and discussion of content at the April PESC meeting. Content includes text (scientific accuracy, spelling, grammar, etc), photos, and references.
  3. Previously submitted articles have been updated for references and photos and will be resent for the May meeting.
  4. Renaming the guide. A new name for the Green Guide is needed because there is an online magazine created by National Geographic named The Green Guide. PESC members were requested to come up with suggestions for new names; none were sent ahead of the April PESC meeting.
  5. A meeting should be scheduled in early May with the township's website staff to discuss format and implementation of the Green Guide.